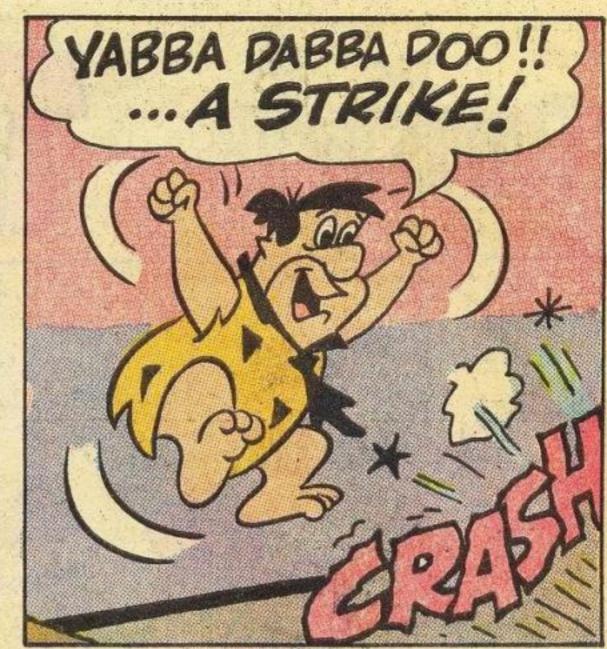


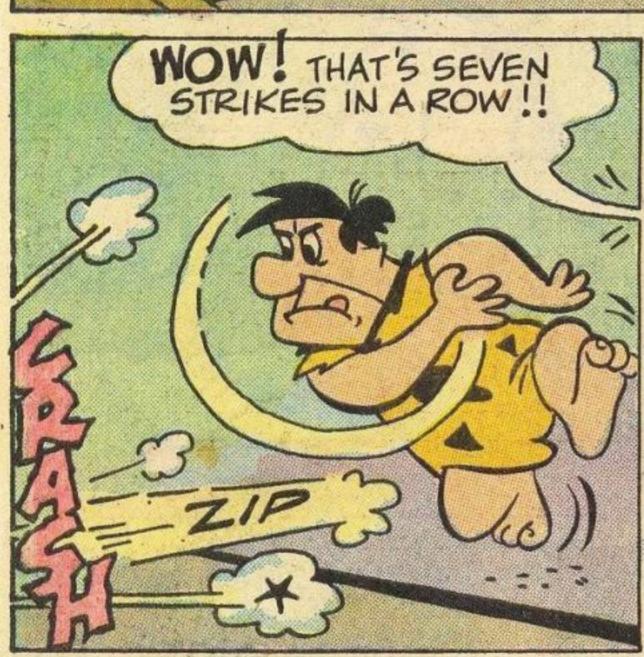


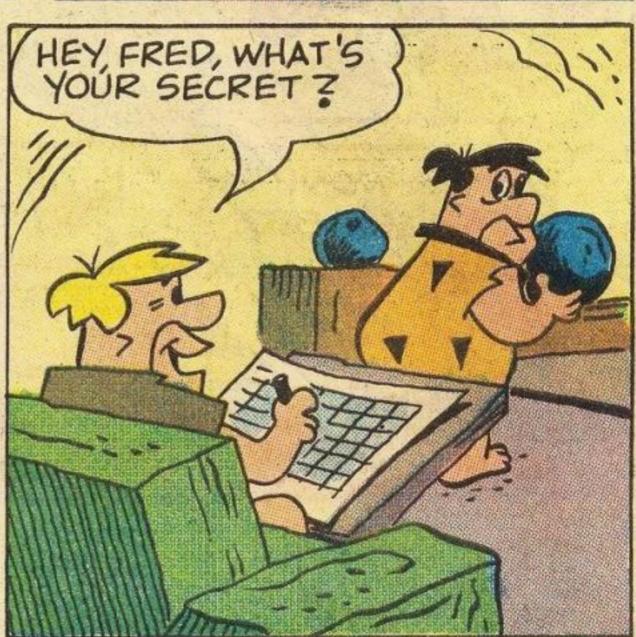


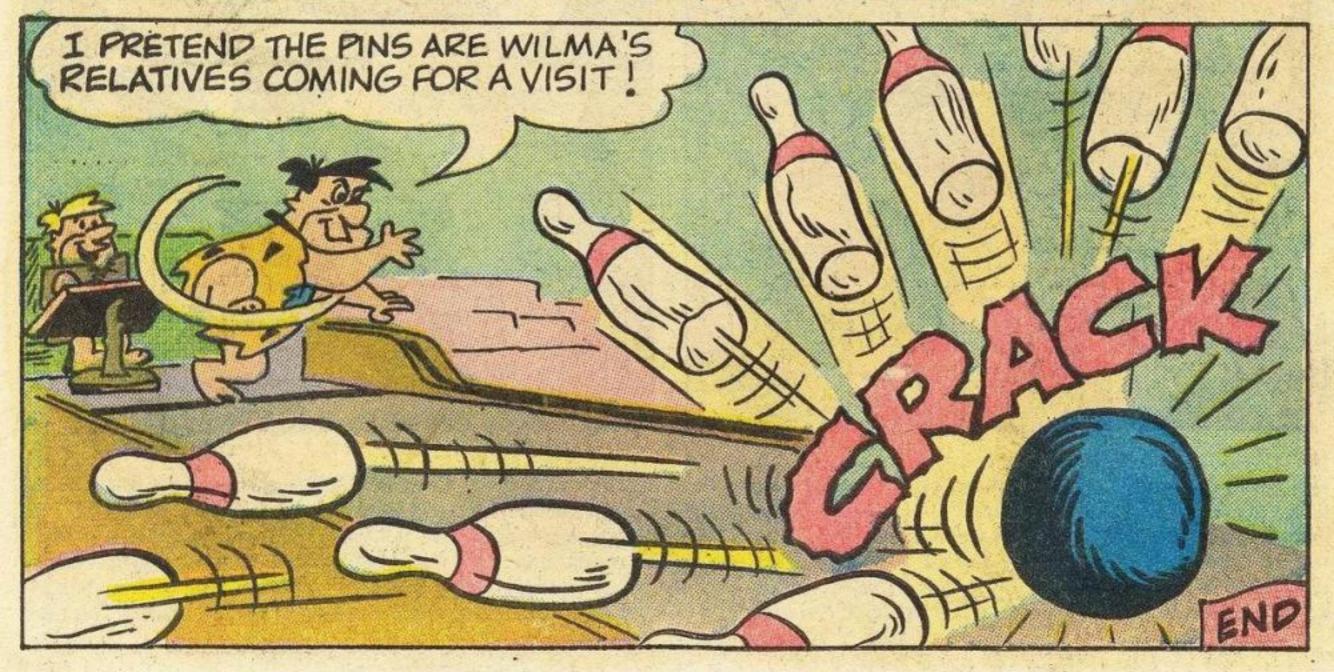
THE FLINTSTONES Vol. 5, No. 32, September, 1974, nomscans HaCsA published every six weeks by Charlton Publications, Inc., at Charlton Building, Division St., Derby, Conn. 06418. Second class postage paid at Derby, Conn. 06418. 25¢ per copy. Subscription \$1.75 annually. Printed in U.S.A. George Wildman, Managing Editor. The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this periodical are entirely fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended. This magazine has been produced and sold subject to the restrictions that it shall only be resold at retail as published and at full cover price. It is a violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price. National Advertising Representatives: Dilo, 114 E. 32nd St., New York, N.Y. 10016 (212-686-9050). © 1974, HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC. International copyright secured. All rights





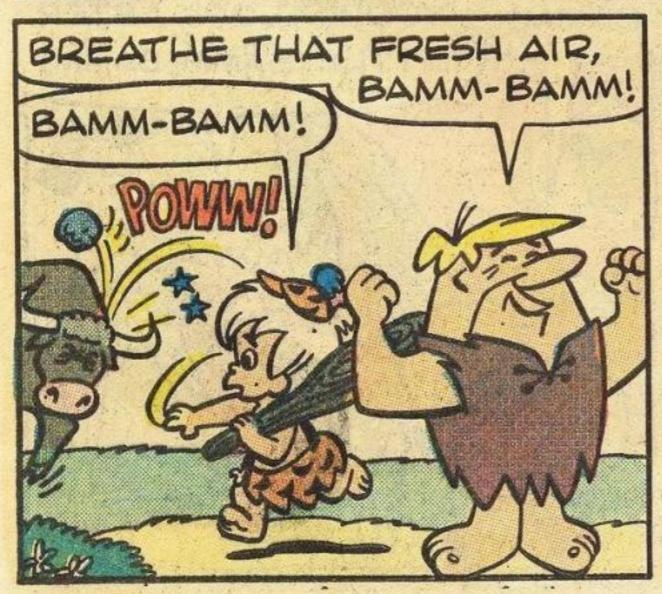


















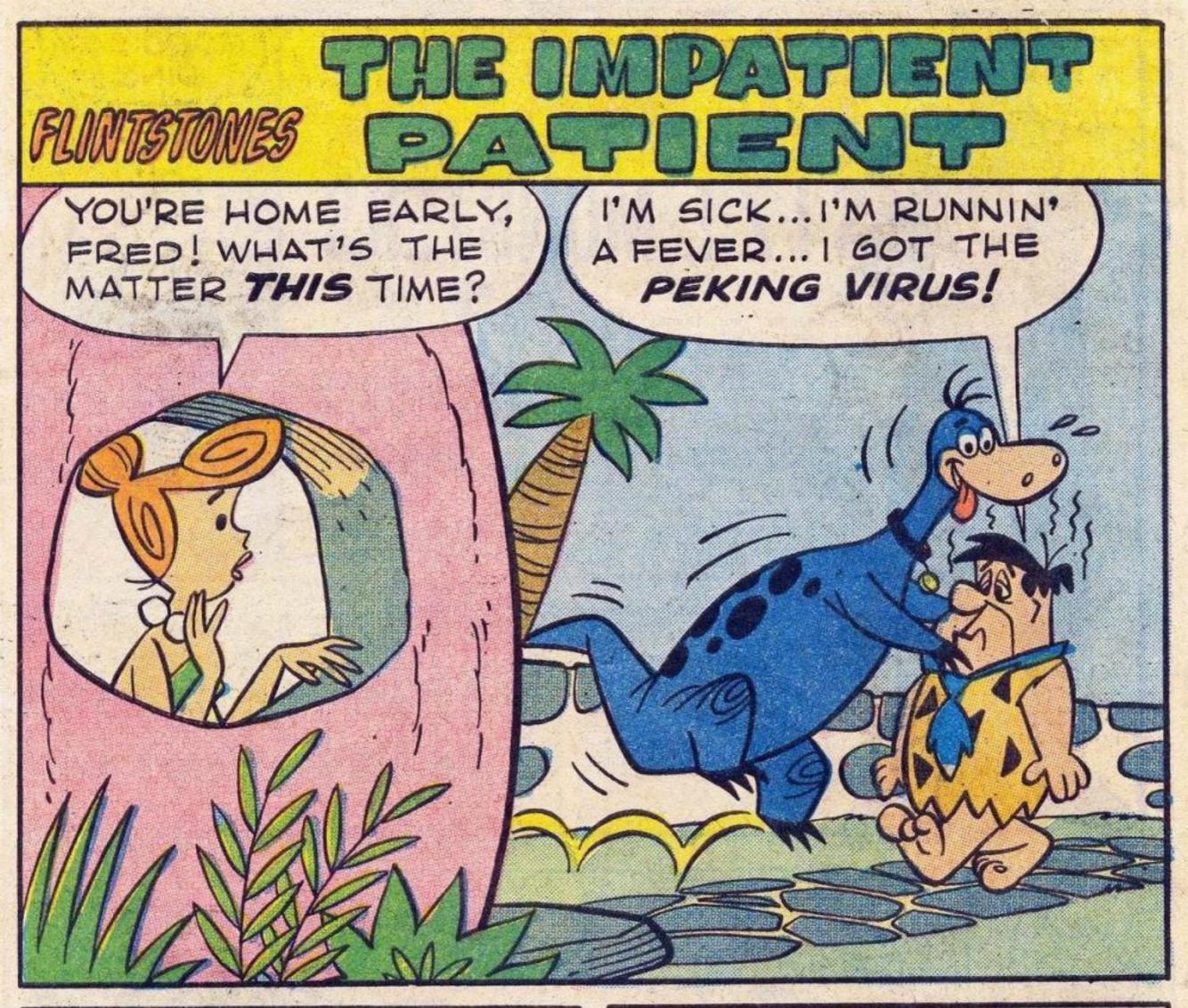


















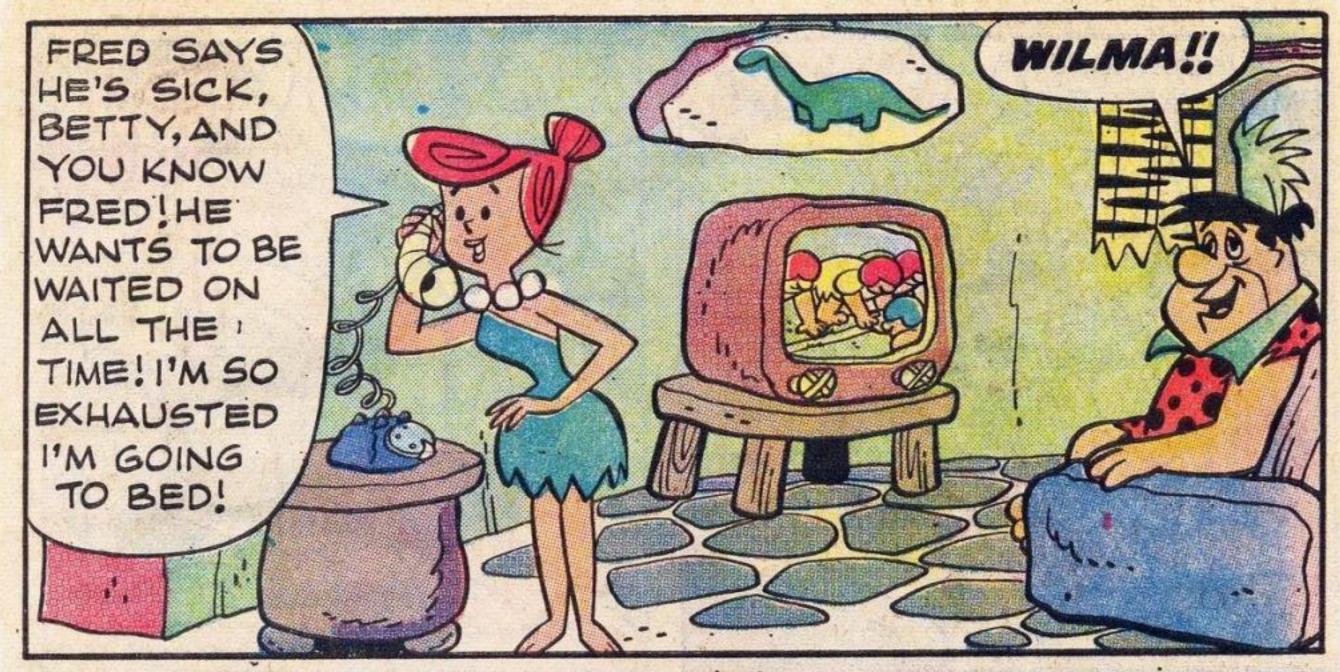






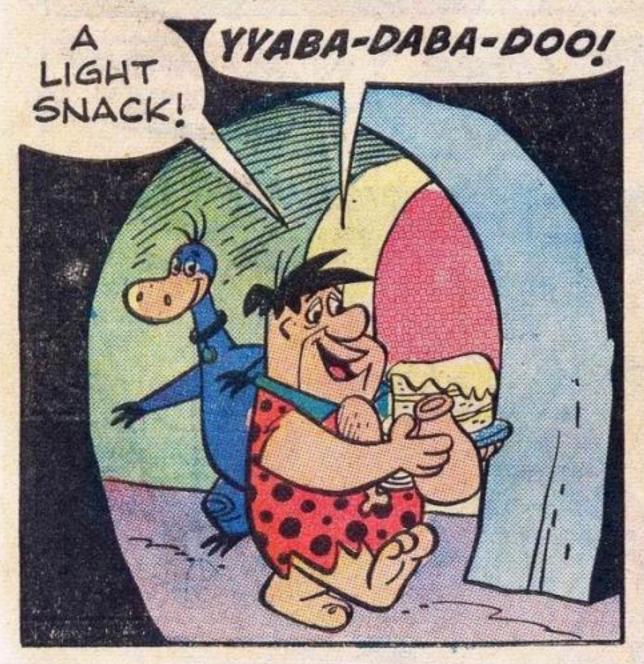














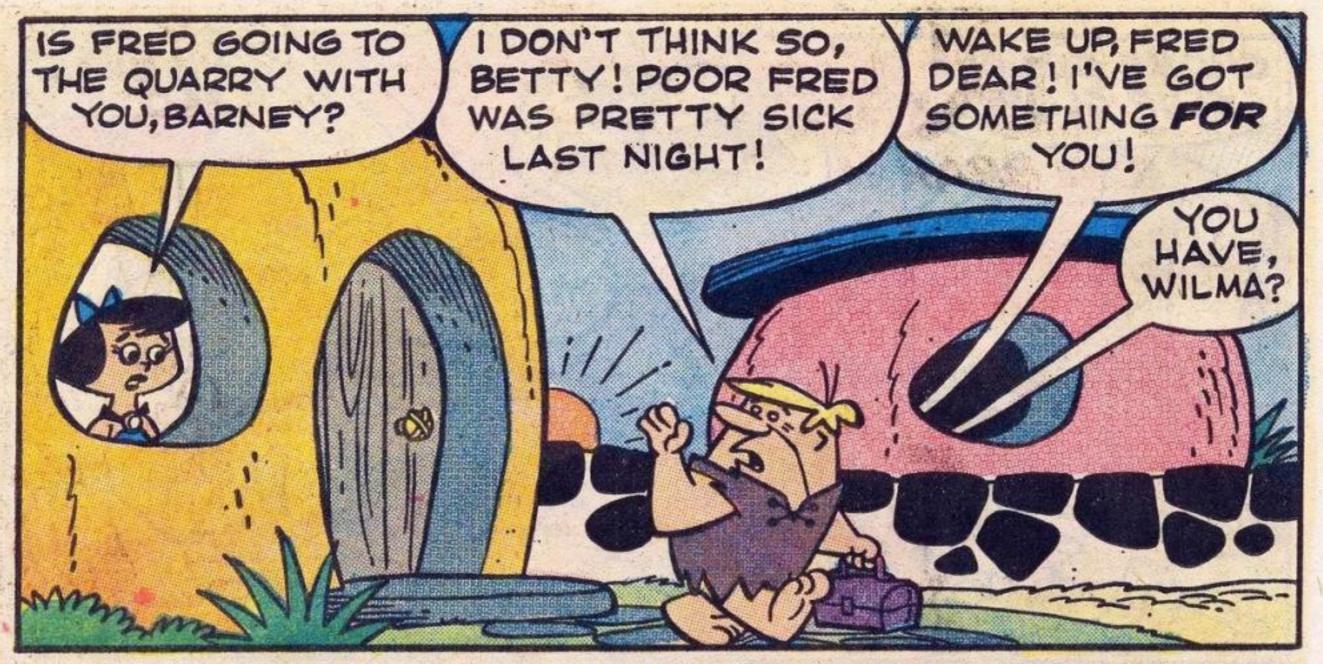












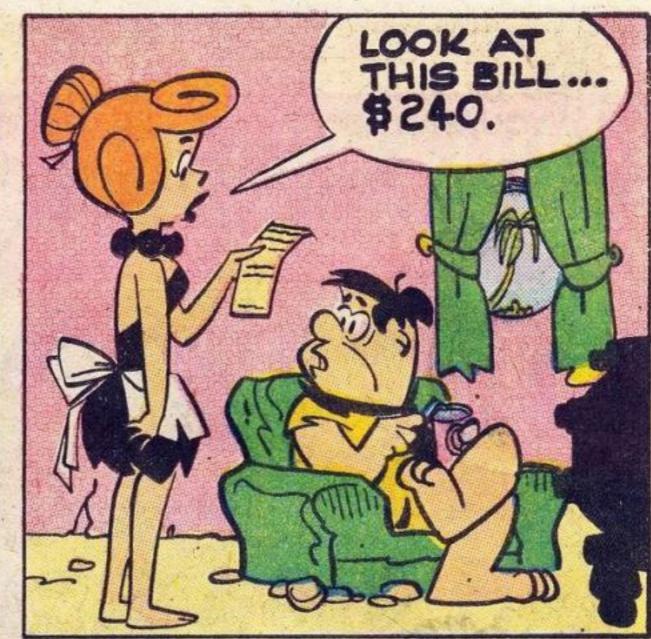


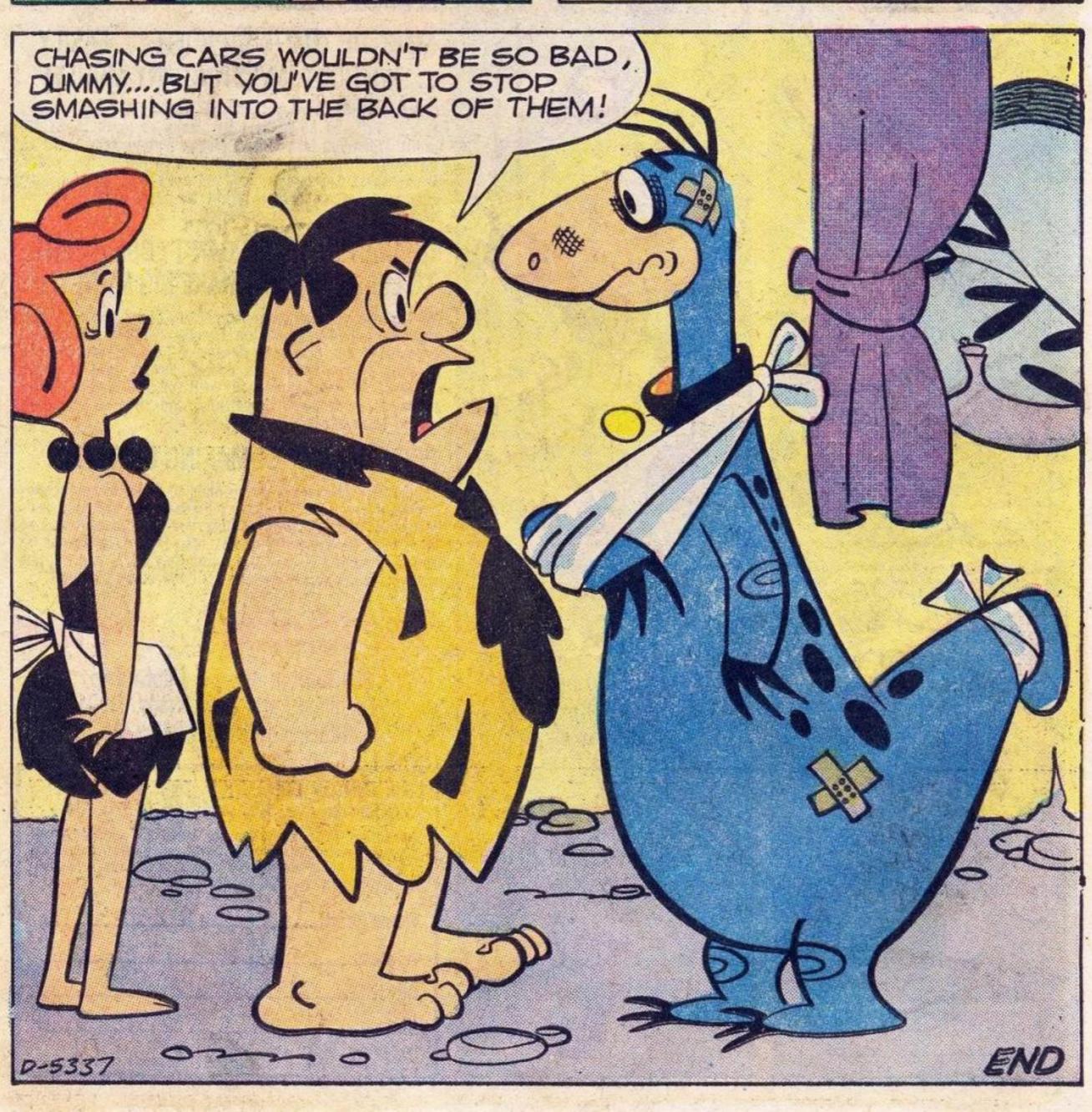
















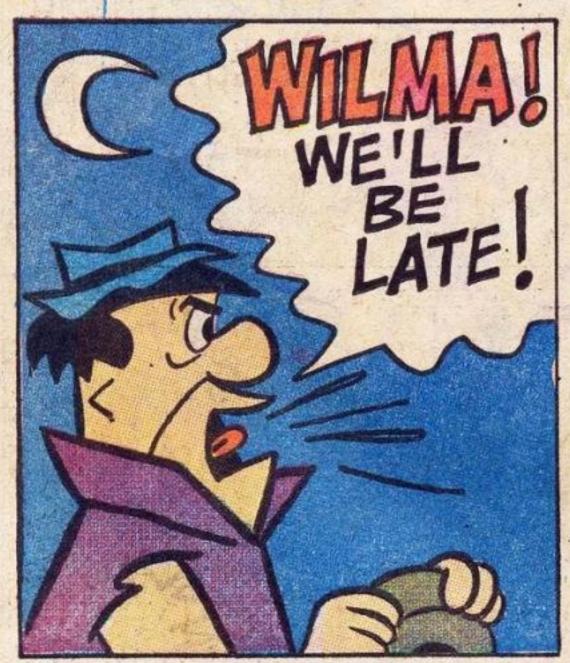
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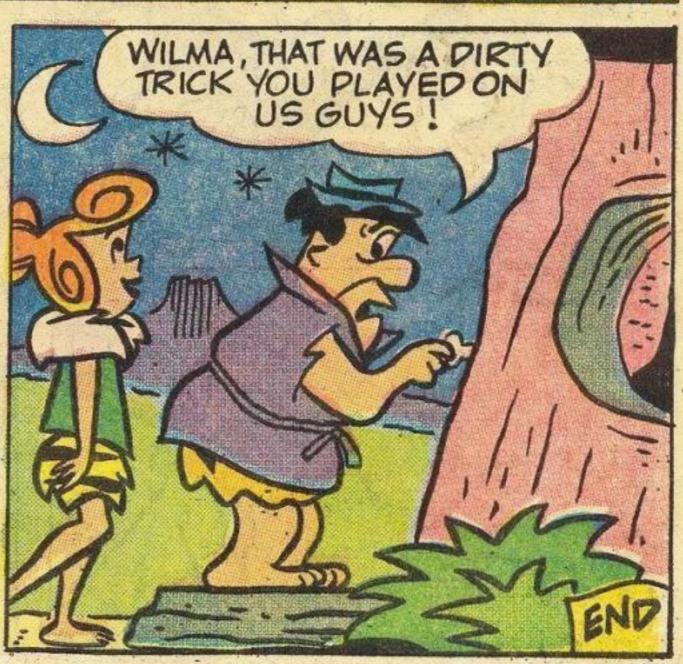


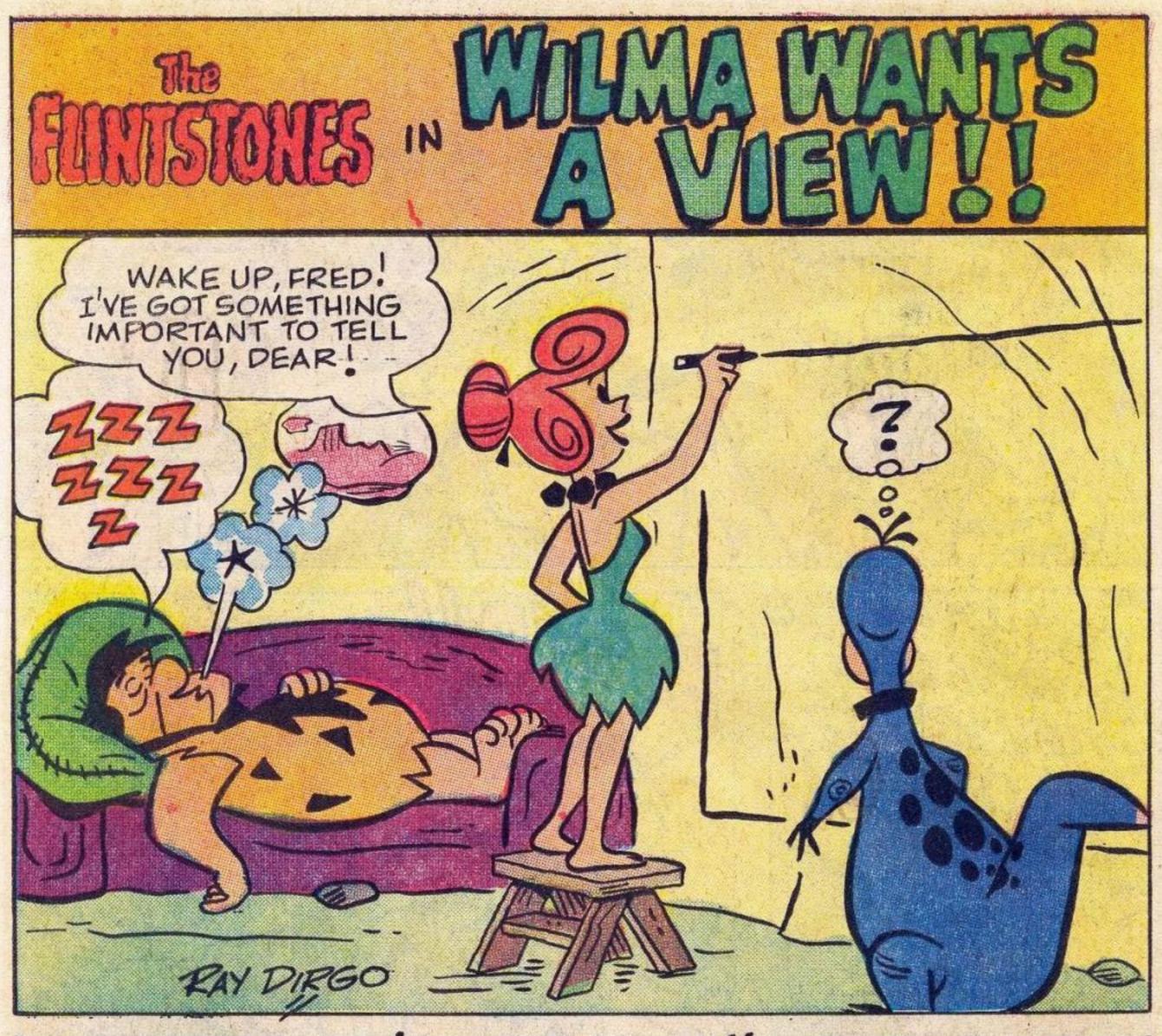






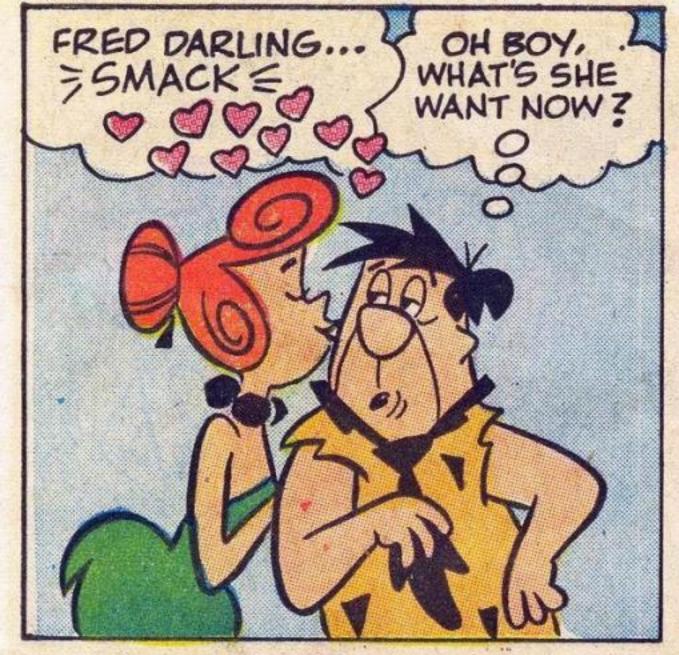




















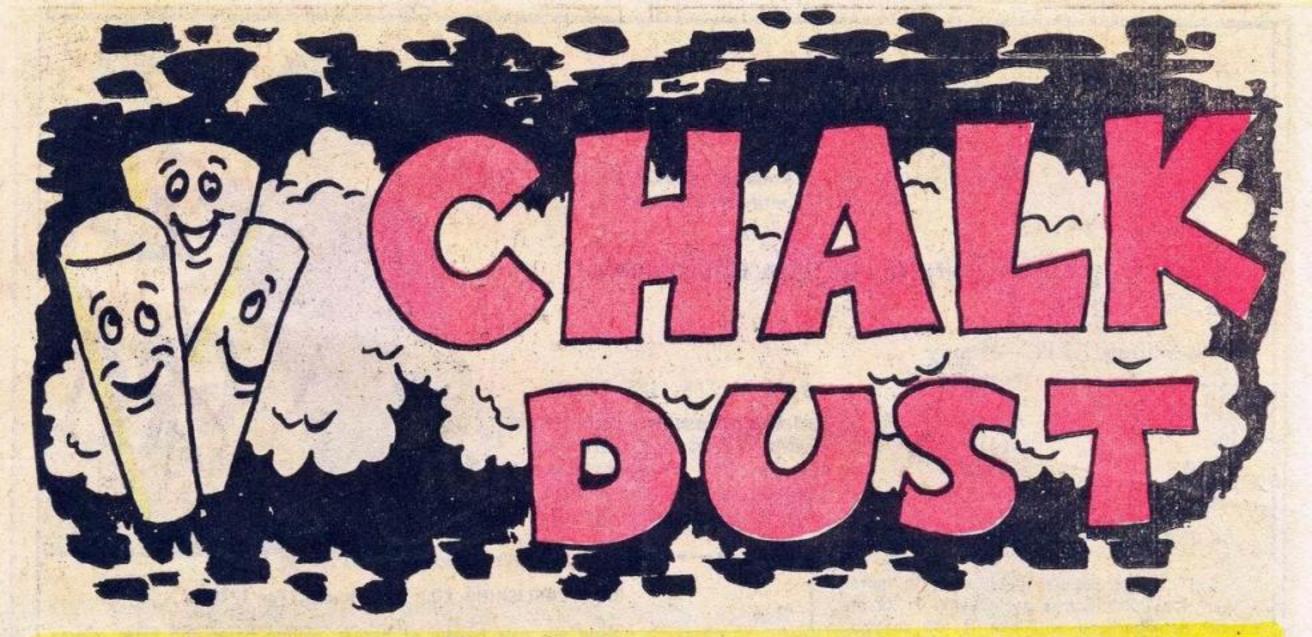












For more than thirty years I have been teaching those darling little children in our school system. I taught them even in the kindergarten grade right up through senior high school. But nothing in this world compares to the ability, skill, imagination, and even mischief of our grade school youngsters. They can at times come up with solutions to problems that are way ahead of our best scientists.

These past two years in many of our cities and communities there has been a shortage of electricity. We have had black-outs, brown-outs, or whatever else yeu want to call it. So when the kids came back from vacation, that was the topic we discussed. Then my paper monitor, Helen, gave each student a sheet of paper.

"Suppose you were in charge of the city," I told the class, "How would you see that we have enough electricity for lights, motors, heating, air conditioners, and any other appliance that needs electric current?"

Maybe there was a hole in my head when I gave them that assignment. Only five minutes to write the solution. Then I collected the papers. Pulled one out of the pack at random.

"Michael," I called, "Come up to the front of the

class and read your paper."

"I have a very simple solution," he began. "We can all have electricity free of charge. All we need. My father took me to the zoo this summer. They had a building with all kinds of fish and other creatures in it. I saw an electric eel. He made enough electricity to light several electric bulbs. So every family has five or six eels. All the current you need free of charge."

Marsha waved her hand wildly. I sighed. She was always looking for the opportunity to show that Michael made a mistake. She did not like him anymore. She had given him some cookies her mother baked. And he said they weren't fit to feed to pigs. She was almost ready to pull the hair off his scalp. I had to acknowledge her request to speak.

"First of all you would have to buy these electric eels," she began. "These would be a big demand for them. And they would be very expensive. Next, you have to feed them food. And I figure with everyone

wanting to buy eel food, that would cost a lot of money. And then if the eel got sick, what would you do? Maybe there will be eel doctors."

"You could give them the cookies your mother bakes," shouted Michael with evident anger in his voice. "If it doesn't cure them, then it may kill them."

That was all I needed! I banged a book on my desk for order. Then I pulled another paper out of the pack.

"Thelma," I said, "Come up here and read your paper to the class." Inwardly I was wondering if the principal had been here observing my lesson, what his reaction would be?

"During the blackout I was with my father in his car," she read. "We had no problem at all. The lights were on. And we had music from our tape player. So maybe every family should have an extra car in their home. Keep it in the living room. If they have a private house they can keep it in the basement. So when there is a blackout, all they have to do is to start the motor. Or maybe they can just use the battery in the car for lights."

"Objection, objection," shouted Donald. "If they run the motor in the house there will be pollution. Every home will be full of that terrible stuff. I know it can be dangerous. I don't remember just what it is called. I know the first word is carbon. The second is something like a hide."

"Carbon monoxide," I corrected him. "But enough of this. I think we are getting off the track."

at the face of Laura who sat in front of my desk and I could sense she didn't know what it meant.

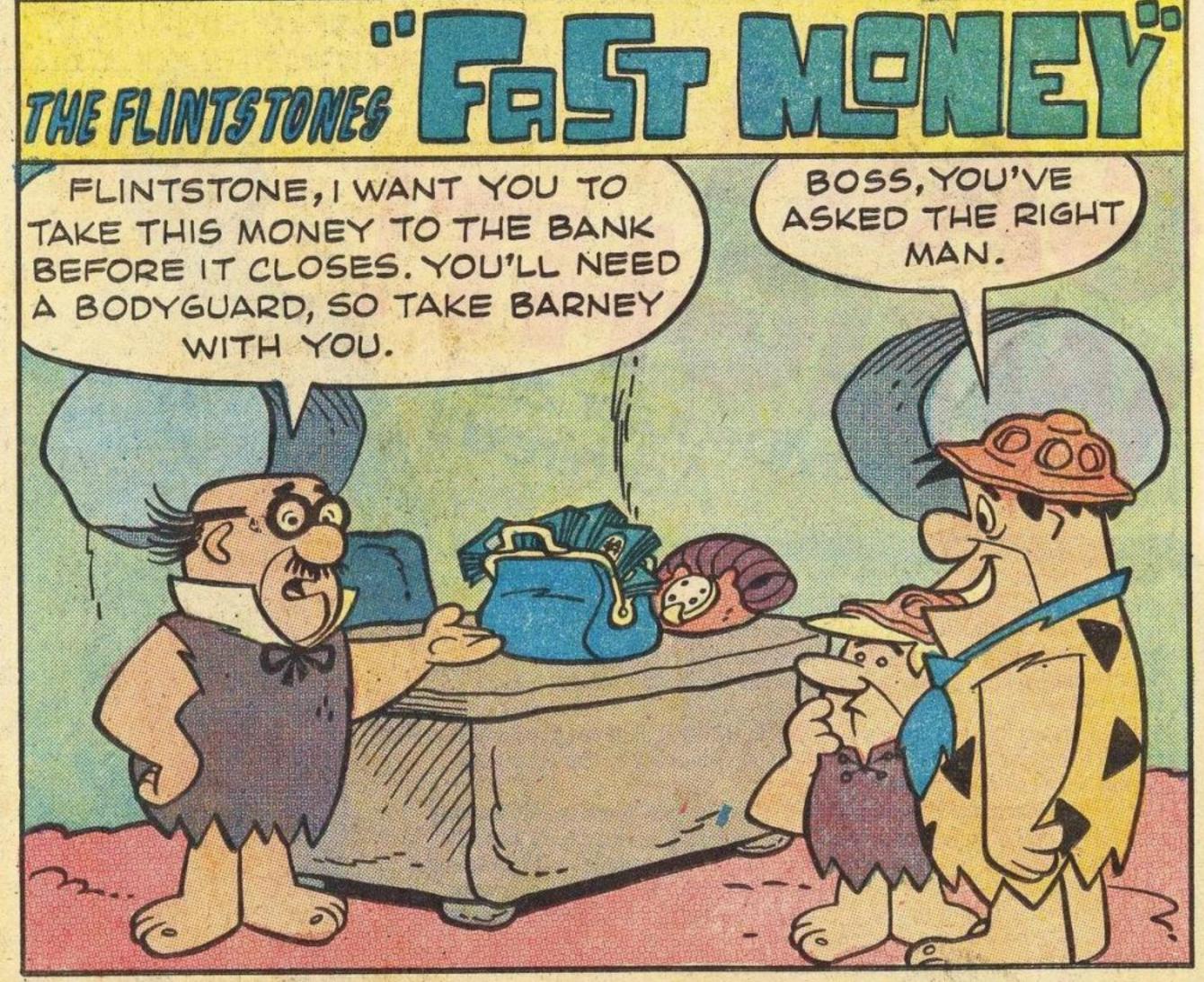
"How can we get off a track if we weren't on a track?" she asked.

I knew I was beaten. Also that I was losing control of the lesson. Two more minutes to the lunch time bell and I would be sayed.

"Every home should have an emergency searchlight and candles in case of a blackout," I told the class. And then to snap back at them, I added, "Candles are wenderful. If it weren't for Edison we would be watching TV by candlelight."

. The bell rang just as I finished the last word. I really

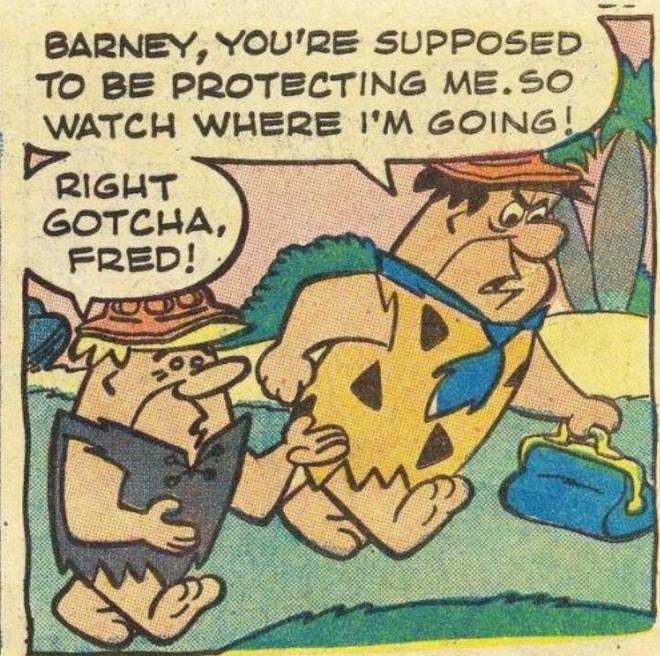
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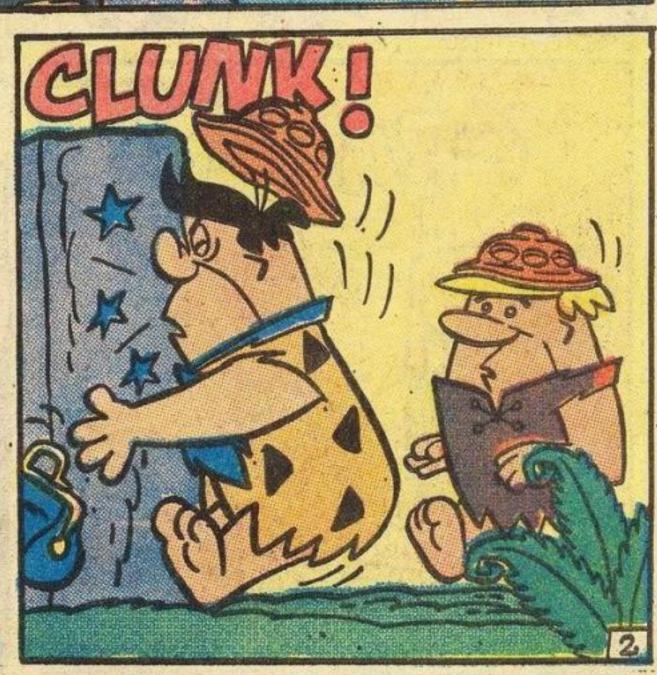




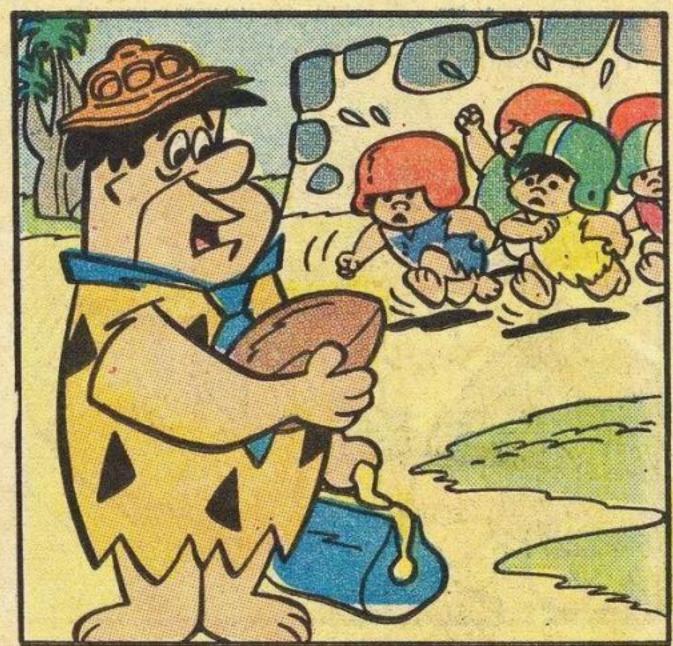




















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